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The job of programming and issuing radios was massive and took a team effort during the 56th Presidential Inauguration.

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Virginia NG assists D.C. Guard at 56th Presidential Inauguration



D.C. National Guard men and women proudly march before President Obama on the reviewing stand during the inauguration parade Jan. 20, just as they have during every inauguration dating back to the early 1800s. We were standing tall and looking good on a cold winter day, proud to salute our new commander in chief.

Winter 2008-09



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Commanding General's Column

'd like to thank each and every member of the District of Columbia National Guard and the Joint Task Force – DC for accomplishing one of the most amazing feats in our organization's history. A force of 10,000 National Guardsmen – 7,000 in the District and another 3,000 in the surrounding area – came from 30 different states and the Virgin Islands to support the 56th Presidential Inauguration. This was the largest number of National Guard forces ever amassed in the District for such an event, and without your tireless efforts it could not have been the success that it was. It is almost unbelievable that with two million people in and around the National Mall that day, there was not one single arrest associated with the inauguration. Given our primary purpose was to support civilian law enforcement, I'd say it was more than a job well done!

Most people never see the madness behind the scenes. What I witnessed day in and day out was nothing short of miraculous. We really rose to the occasion and I could not be more proud of you. Thank you again for what you accomplished during this historic moment in time for our nation and for the District. I have never been more proud to call myself a Capital Guardian.

As we look to the future, we will soon be sending the 547th Transportation Co. to Iraq. For some within their ranks, this will be the third deployment in support of the Global War on Terrorism. Keep this in mind as we again prepare to send the unit into harm's way. We want each of them to come back safely, and I consider each of them to be a true American.

I'd like to thank not only the soldiers and their families for the sacrifices they are making, but also the DCNG Family Readiness Program which does an incredible job supporting our troops by supporting their families and children. The members of this program have all made a real difference in the lives of our soldiers, and we could not do it without them. They, too, have risen to the occasion and done an incredible job for the DCNG and the nation.

Along with our family program, the Capital Guardian Youth Challenge program continues to be an important contribution to the District and the nation. We're changing young lives one person at a time, and that is where all progress begins. Our program is in its infancy, but we are growing. I ask you to support the program in any way you can. We need your help, and you can make a difference here at home as well. It is our job to protect our nation and our way of life at home and abroad, and the Youth Challenge program does that by strengthening our youth for the challenges ahead.

We recently received our first two UH-72 Lakota helicopters, which will eventually replace our Vietnam-vintage Hueys. This was another historic day for the D.C. National Guard. We are the first Guard unit in the nation to bear the

medical red cross on our the Lakota, which is quite an honor.

On the air side of the house, the 113th Wing is ramping up their OPTEMPO in preparation for an Operational Readiness Inspection (ORI) this summer. There are two Operational Readiness Exercises honchoed by JFHQ-DC (Air) that will be the final dress rehearsals for the big show. I've been observing the Wing's progress over the past several years, and I know we are



Maj. Gen. Errol R. Schwartz, Commanding General, and President Barak Obama.

going to be ready. They are working long hours, but the finish line is near. I encourage each member of the Wing to keep going and give it all you've got right through to the end. Let's show them what we mean when we say we are the nation's Capital Guardians! We have a proud tradition, and each of you carries on that tradition.

All the while, the Wing's Air Sovereignty unit is continuing to provide 24/7 alert capability at Andrews, just as they have done since Sept. 11, 2001. Here, too, I am amazed at the caliber of people we have, capable of tremendous effort, quietly serving the nation, keeping our homeland safe.

It was my honor to meet President Obama – our nation's first African-American president – at the Armory the day after his inauguration. I felt proud to be there – not for myself, but for everyone in the ranks of the DCNG. As I shook his hand, I felt the enormity of the moment. I let him know how proud we are to serve our nation's commander in chief. I thought about all the sacrifices and the selfless service of the DCNG soldiers and airmen and the fine tradition we carry on, our heritage. Suffice to say I am every day more than proud to serve as your Commanding General. Please keep up the great work you do for DCNG, for the District and for our nation.

I would be remiss if I did not mention that this is the Army's Year of the NCO. We have a long and proud history of NCOs who have served in the D.C. Guard throughout the course of history. It is my strong belief, as it is of many others who know it to be true, that our NCOs are the backbone of our Army and our Air Force. It is a pleasure to serve with each and every one of you. It goes without saying we could not get the job done without you, and we are honored to shine the spotlight on you this year. I will personally be recognizing some of our top NCOs during events to come in the days and months ahead.

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56th Presidential Inauguration

Twelve DCNG members win inauguration tickets

By Tech. Sqt. Adrianne L. Wilson

113th Wing Public Affairs

n a drawing Jan. 17 at the D.C. Armory, eight D.C. Army National Guard members and four D.C. Air National Guard members won tickets in a random drawing to the 56th Presidential Inauguration.

Washington, D.C., Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton gave 12 tickets to the District of Columbia for soldiers and airmen who live in the District of Columbia.

Brig. Gen. Linda K. McTague, Joint Force Headquarters, District of Columbia assistant adjutant general, Air, and Brig. Gen. Barbaranette T. Bolden, assistant adjutant general, Army, held a hat while an airman and soldier, respectively, pulled a piece of paper out with a name on it.

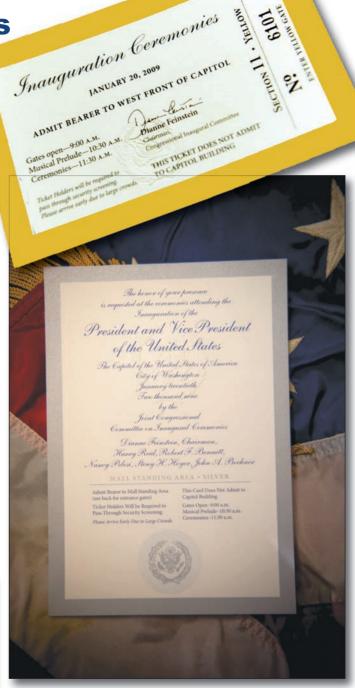
There are around 300 District of Columbia residents who are in the DCNG. There are more Army Guard members than Air, which is why there were eight names picked for Army and four for Air.

If the Guard member could not attend the inauguration, they could give it to a friend or family member.

"I got a call from Col. Jones, [113th Mission Support Group commander, I that I won the ticket," said Staff Sgt. Mikyung Kang, 113th Civil Engineer Squadron operations management apprentice. "I was surprised because I usually don't ever win anything. I thought it was cool, and decided that I would give the ticket to a friend since I was not able to attend since I was working in Task Force Blue."



Brig. Gen. Barbaranette Bolden holds the hat as Brig. Gen. Linda McTague, right, looks on during the drawing of names for ticket winners to the inauguration.



Those who received tickets were Army Pvt. Antwone Atkinson, Army Pvt. Daryl Barriteau, Army Spc. Charles Blakeney, Army Maj. Curtis Cherry, Air Force Airman 1st Class Tiffany Clark, Army Staff Sgt. Anthony Cowell, Air Force Staff Sgt. Mikyung Kang, Air Force Staff Sgt. DeLoniel McCombs, Army Pvt. Patrice McNair, Air Force Senior Airman Michael Miller, Army Warrant Officer George Palmer, and Army Spc. Jessica Pollard.

This was the first time inauguration tickets were given to the DCNG.

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Pre-Inauguration Concert Traffic Control

Capital Guardian MPs provide support during historic inauguration

By Staff Sgt. G.H. Cureton

715th Public Affairs Detachment

rowds of celebrants made their way to the National Mall hours before the scheduled noon swearing-in ceremony for the 44th President of the United States, but members of the 372nd Military Police Battalion, District of Columbia National Guard, were ready.

Just two days prior to the inauguration, more than 300 Capital Guardians had a practice run providing traffic control for a concert that drew an estimated 500,000 people. According to Army Sgt. Maj. Clifford Maxfield, 372nd Military Police Battalion, the National Guardsmen were responsible for a 16-square-mile area. "We have planned for this mission for months," said Maxfield, who has supported previous presidential inaugurations. "The concert allowed us to work out the details and make sure that we are ready for the crowds expected at the inauguration."

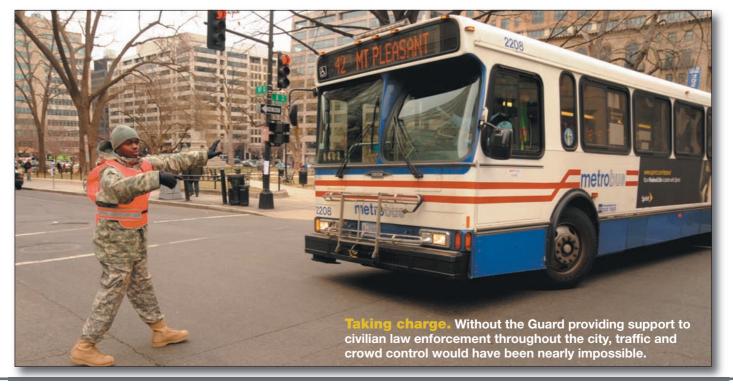
Those crowds, estimated to be upwards of two million people, proved a formidable test for the Capital Guardians. Every member of the battalion was pressed into action, directing traffic around the many barriers, providing directions and sharing stories about the significance of the day. "It was a lot more people than what we are used to, but I think we handled our mission well," said Army Sgt. 1st Class Lina Morris, 372nd MP Battalion.



One of 7,000 Guardsmen in the District directs traffic. A record two million people attended the inauguration.

Many of those heading to the day's events also made it a point to express appreciation for the Guardsmen, some of whom have deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. "There was a welcoming presence despite the long waits and the massive number of people," said Army 1st Lt. Larry Jones, 372nd MP Battalion. "Many people came up to us to say thanks for what we do."

"Our support of events such as this is exactly why we serve in the Guard," added Maxfield. "We are Capital Guardians supporting our nation during this historic event."





Leading the Way

Brig. Gen. Barbaranette Bolden, commander, Joint **Task Force-District of** Columbia, left, was in charge of a force of about 10.000 Guardsmen and women from 29 states, the Virgin Islands and the District in support of the 56th Presidential Inauguration. "The number of National Guard members that deployed to the District was the largest we've ever had in history," Bolden said. Guard members can be proud of their role helping to ensure a safe and secure environment for the event, she said.

Thousands of Guardsmen from 30 states support the District's historic inauguration

By Staff Sgt. Jim Greenhill

National Guard Bureau

ore than 10,000 National Guardsmen and women supported the 56th Presidential Inauguration, the Guard's largest contribution to an inauguration in its 372-year history.

"The National Guard helped ensure a safe and secure environment for all attendees," said Manny Pacheco, a National Guard spokesman. "Guard members are a force multiplier to a variety of federal and state agencies and military task forces."

National Guard members from 30 states, the Virgin Islands and the District of Columbia worked for Joint Task Force-District of Columbia to support the inaugural event.

Citizen-soldiers and -airmen provided communications, transportation, traffic control and medical and logistical support, as well as playing music for the president at the Southern States Inaugural Ball and marching in the inaugural parade.

"This number of National Guard members that deployed to the District was the largest we've ever had in history," said Brig. Gen. Barbaranette Bolden, commander of the Joint Task Force-D.C.. "Our National Guard personnel did a tremendous job. We contributed to a safe and fun atmosphere in a crowd of nearly two million, the largest inauguration in history."

D.C. Metropolitan Police Chief Cathy Lanier said the Guard "helped us keep law enforcement focused on law enforcement."

The Guard's support to civilian authorities works well

because relationships are already well-established through previous events and shared training exercises. "They know that we will be there, and that we will perform professionally, no matter what the situation," Bolden said. "This historic inauguration is just another great example of the job we do day in and day out, all across America."

National Guard soldiers and airmen arrived from Alabama, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Iowa, Kentucky, Massachusetts, Maryland, Minnesota, Michigan, Mississippi, North Carolina, Nebraska, New Jersey, Nevada, New York, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, Virgin Islands, Vermont and West Virginia. Their feats included:

- Members of the 257th Army National Guard Band were among 250 troops on duty from the District of Columbia. The band provided ceremonial and inaugural ball support. "We're so proud of them," Bolden said. "This has never happened before — our Army National Guard Band participating in an inauguration."
- More than 2,000 National Guardsmen and women from Maryland and Virginia worked in support of their states' lead law enforcement and transportation agencies to assist with traffic flow into and out of the District of Columbia.
- It's Iowa's first time supporting an inauguration: The Iowa National Guard sent about 1,000 soldiers from the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 34th Infantry Division.

Ensuring a Safe and Secure Environment

- More than 200 members of the New York National Guard helped with communications and traffic control.
- In addition to about 400 soldiers and airmen, the West Virginia National Guard brought specialized homeland defense and security units, fixed-wing and rotary aircraft and mobile satellite communications equipment in support of federal and local agencies to help manage the large crowds.
- Tennessee's contribution included airmen from the 228th Combat Communications Squadron and the 118th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron and soldiers from the 117th Military Police Battalion.

In addition to the JTF-DC operation at the state and District level, the National Guard Bureau participated in Armed Forces Inaugural Committee efforts while coordinating the support provided by the National Guard with federal and state civil authorities. A joint operations center was staffed around the clock through the inauguration.

The National Guard has a long history of supporting presidential inaugurations. Local militia units marched with George Washington as he proceeded to his first inauguration on April 30, 1789, according to Guard historians.

"The National Guard is proud to continue this tradition of supporting and defending both the president of the



Virginia Army National Guard Spc. Jerry Andes offers directions to one of the many people who passed through a U.S. Secret Service checkpoint to watch the Inaugural Parade in Washington, D.C., on Jan. 20, 2005.

United States, our constitutional form of government, and our American way of life," Pacheco said.

Guard members are proud of their role helping to ensure a safe and secure environment for the event, Bolden said.

"Every soldier and airman that came here will be sharing this historic event with their families for many years to come." Bolden said.

Celebrating citizens flock to historic inauguration



Marching into History ...

Front and Center DCNG Army and Air follow tradition by marching in inaugural parade By Tech. Sgt. Adrianne Wilson, 113th Wing Public Affairs Maj. Shane Doucet Joint Force Headquarters, District of Columbia Public Affairs Officer

he District of Columbia National Guard participated in the 56th Presidential Inauguration held Jan. 20, as they have for more than a century.

Both the D.C. Army and Air National Guard had a traditional marching element comprising 91 soldiers and 91 airmen. Since the 1800s. D.C. National Guard members have marched in the inaugural parades.

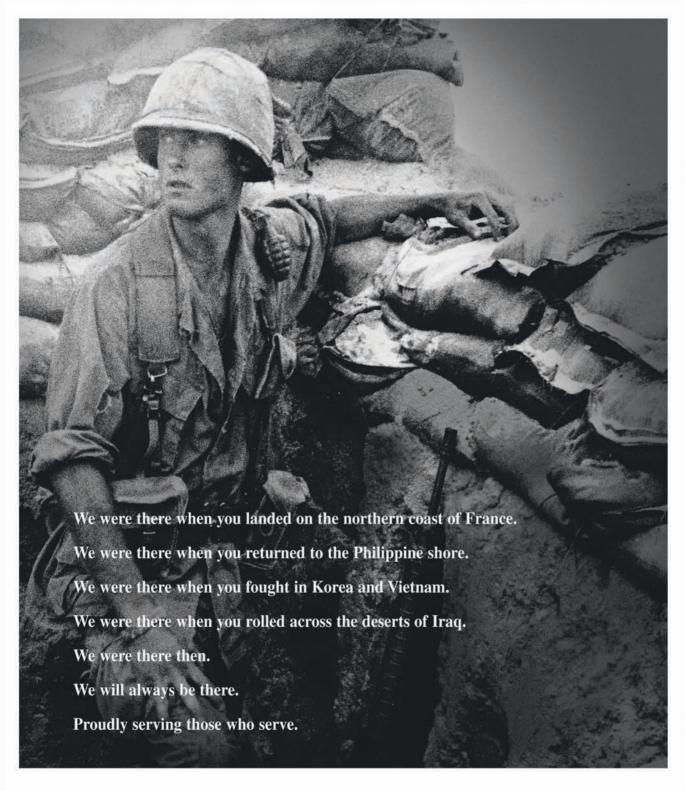
"The event was overwhelming just to know that all those people were here to see us march. Hearing the speech and being in the parade made me really proud to be a U.S. citizen and to serve in the Air National Guard," said Air Force Master Sgt. Irma Tamavo-McMurphy. 113th Communications Flight Wing Knowledge Operations manager.

"Everyone was going, because it was a big deal and it was important. It was exciting to me because of the crowds. Now I can share this with my grandchildren. This inauguration is not for just one race, it is for all races. It proves that everyone has a chance."

- Air Force Chief Master Sgt. LeJuane F. Robinson

D.C. Air National Guard men and women receive a salute from the commander in chief while marching past the reviewing stand during the Inaugural Parade Jan. 20. 10 - CAPITAL GUARDIAN / Winter 2008-09





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Thanking Participants with Coins

Army Secretary honors DCNG

By Tech. Sqt. Adrianne L. Wilson

113th Wing Public Affairs

ecretary of the Army Pete Geren thanked the D.C. National Guard for their support of the presidential inauguration during a Feb. 9 ceremony at the D.C. Armory.

The secretary gave 28 D.C. Air and Army Guard members and two DCNG civilians his coin. One side bears the Army four-star-general flag and on the other side is the secretary's name. The Guard members were given the coin in recognition of their superior service during the presidential inauguration.

"The whole world watched the 56th Presidential Inauguration," said Secretary Geren. "We had some concerns going in that perhaps this would be a crowd that could dwarf our very best efforts. In fact, we had a record setting crowd of 1.8 million, but it did not dwarf our best efforts. Because of the extraordinary efforts of every one of you, this inauguration came off without a hitch. Hang that ribbon on your chest; it's a tribute to you, and it's a tribute to your families that stand with you. Your city and your nation are proud of the contributions you have made."

"It was an honor to receive the coin from the Honorable Pete Geren," said Senior Master Sgt. David Thomas, 113th Wing Plans superintendent. "It speaks volumes to the magnitude of the operation that the DCNG executed when a senior leader of the U.S. military takes time out of their schedule to thank and recognize the work that was accomplished."

"Shaking the hand of the secretary of the Army while receiving my coin was one of the most prestigious honors I could have ever received," said Master Sgt. Wanda C. Robinson, 113 LRS stock control NCOIC. "Just the feeling of knowing that I served in the presidential inauguration has pretty much heightened my military career.

Everyone does not get the chance to say, 'I participated in the swearing-in of one of the most important men in the world and that is the president of the United States.' I would tell anyone they should experience this event because it is an experience of a life time."

"Recipients of the coins were nominated by supervisors and commanders," said Col. Ronald C. Stamps, Joint Force Headquarters – D.C. Human Resources director.

Due to time constraints, Mr. Geren gave out 30 coins. A total of 150 DCNG soldiers, airmen and civilians will receive the coins. The remaining coins will be presented at a later date.

Secretary Geren also gave an Army Superior Unit Award and placed a

streamer in significance of the award on the DCNG guidon.



Secretary of the Army Pete Geren.

"All members of the DCANG are awarded the ribbon since this was a joint operation," said Stamps. "This is the first time in DCNG history the DCANG has received the Army Superior Unit Award."

The D.C. Army and Air Guard processed and bedded down more than 5,000 soldiers and airmen in three days through three separate Joint Reception, Staging, Onward Movement and Integration locations, said Stamps.

Approximately 10,000 National Guard personnel were called to duty for this event. Of the 10,000, almost 7.000 were under the command of the DCNG through the JFHQ-DC and the Joint Task force.

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UNITED CONCORDIA

Making Beautiful Music ...

257th Army Band first Guard band in history to play at inaugural ball

By Army Staff Sgt. G.H. Cureton

715th Public Affairs

Just a few miles from the Jan. 20 historic swearing-in of Barack Obama, the 44th President of the United States and the first African-American to serve as the nation's leader, a group of citizen-soldiers struck a historic note of their own. The 257th Army Band took the stage that night at one of the Inaugural Balls, marking the first time a National Guard band has been given the honor.

The 257th played *Ruffles and Flourishes*, *Hail to the Chief* and the first dance for the new President and First Lady, *At Last* by Etta James, at the Southern States Inaugural Ball at the District of Columbia National Guard Armory.

"The band is so excited. It is such an honor to play for the Commander in Chief," said Chief Warrant Officer Shiela



Making it shine. Spec. John Rosa polishes his tuba in preparation for the 257th's historic performance.

Klotz, commander, 257th Army Band, before the event. For Klotz it was the realization of eight years of hard work building a band in danger of being shut down when she took command in 2001. "The Army Band's officer said we were on the chopping block," Klotz said. She was given six months to show marked improvement or the band would be deactivated.



for the Southern States Inaugural Ball

After seven years of hard work, the bandsmen found themselves enjoying, on Inauguration Day eve, what was without question for many a highlight of their military music careers.

Klotz credited the leadership of Brig. Gen. Linda K. McTague, assistant adjutant general, D.C. Air National Guard, with fighting to give the 257th a chance to show that they deserved a chance to represent the nation's capital.

"Brig. Gen. McTague did not relent," said Klotz. "She pushed and pushed and pushed, trying to get us a spot on the street – in the parade. The District National Guard uniquely reports to the President, so only he can activate our units. So in that regard it's completely appropriate that we should be the lead-off unit. We are the Capital Guardians," she added.

The general's efforts paid off, and it looked like the 257th would get the chance to march its way into history during the Inaugural Parade. Unfortunately, the unit's size didn't compare to the larger premier military marching bands. The chief knew that the parade would have to wait. "I told her (the general) that instead of the parade, maybe we could play at a ball."

Less than two weeks before the inauguration, the chief and her band received the call that they would be considered, but only after proving they had what it takes. The only thing standing between the 257th and their date with history were the Armed Forces Inaugural Committee and officers from United States Army Band.

"They told us they knew from the first beat, from the first note you played, chief, 'no problem, we were done. You got it," Klotz said.



Practice makes perfect. Spec. Travis Parson warms up his chops on the trumpet.



Securing the 56th Presidential Inauguration

Guard plays key role in Obama's inauguration

By Staff Sgt. Jim Greenhill

National Guard Bureau

bout 9,300 National Guard troops joined thousands of service members from all components supporting the 56th Presidential Inauguration Jan. 20.

"We've always depended on the National Guard," Al Roker said in a break between live remote segments as weather anchor for NBC's Today Show from the parade staging area outside the Pentagon.

After the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, "suddenly, the National Guard took on a whole new meaning," Roker said. "So it's only fitting that at one of the most secure inaugurals, the National Guard would be involved. When it comes down to our security, both domestically and internationally,

the National Guard is obviously an integral part of that."

While National Guard members from 30 different states and the District of Columbia provided communications, transportation, traffic control, and medical and logistical support to civilian authorities staging the inauguration, citizen-soldiers and -airmen joined service members from all components who were marching in the inaugural parade.

Sgt. 1st Class Anthony Gardner, with the District of Columbia National Guard's Recruiting and Retention Command, was one of the marchers. "This is a historic moment, and I wanted to be a part of history," said Gardner. "The National Guard is the oldest military organization in the country. It's fitting that the National Guard is represented."

Jan. 20 saw the National Guard make its largest contribution to a presidential inauguration since the Minutemen gathered for the First Muster in Massachusetts more than 372 years ago.

"This is a historic first," said Air Force Gen. Craig McKinley, the chief of the National Guard Bureau. "The National Guard is contributing not only to the federal response overseas, but we're also working very closely with our states and our governors. The inauguration is another example of how all our states, territories and the District of Columbia are performing their jobs."

The day began as early as 2 a.m. for service members, and for some their duties ran late into the evening. But troops said they would not trade the opportunity, and many said they were deeply proud to be a part of the inauguration on both a personal and professional level.

Air Force Senior Airman Jodi Leininger came to the Military District of Washington at the start of the year for a two-month mission to document the military's contribution to the inauguration for historical purposes.

As a result, this self-proclaimed "small-town girl," from a graduating class of just 48 students, who serves with the 180th Fighter Wing, Ohio Air National Guard, got to photograph the president-elect during the run-up to the inauguration.

"That was, to me, like the biggest opportunity of my life," Leininger said. "Having the opportunity to take a picture of our first African-American president – my new commander in chief – was exciting."

It was 20 degrees and windy outside the Pentagon when parade participants gathered before dawn on that historic Tuesday. "Bone-chilling," Spc. Angela Harper of the District of Columbia National Guard's 276th Military Police Company, called it, shivering.



Pvt. 2nd Class David Niedlinger, a fire support specialist with Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, 1st Squadron, 158th Cavalry Regiment, Maryland National Guard, gives directions to lost spectators before inauguration ceremonies for President-elect Barack Obama, Tuesday, Jan. 20.



Would she rather be anywhere else? "This is a wonderful moment in time, and I'm privileged to have this opportunity," Harper said. "I would do it again, and again, and again."

"I've been colder," Roker said. "I've been on remotes where it's 10 degrees below with a wind chill of 40 below."

He had been colder, but in a journalism career spanning more than 34 years, Roker said he could remember few more significant assignments. "This is about as important as it gets," he said. "It reaffirms that this is the greatest democracy in history, that every four or eight years there is a peaceful, orderly, normal transition. Many places in the world, this is an anomaly. We are the model."

Lt. Col. Xavier Brunson, 1st Battalion, 504th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 82nd Airborne Division, brought about 100 soldiers from Fort Bragg, N.C., to represent the active-duty Army in the parade.

"The opportunity we have to participate in this transfer of government is exciting to myself and my paratroopers," Brunson said.

Many of the paratroopers had never been to the District of Columbia before, and they visited sites such as Arlington Cemetery.

"It was very inspiring for a lot of the young paratroopers," said Capt. Scott McKay, also with the 504th PIR.

(Continued on page 18)

Hundreds of radios waited for batteries inside the armory before being issued to personnel for use throughout the District



The massive logistics effort required to support the operation before, during and after the inauguration was nothing short of miraculous.

Guard plays key role in Pres. Obama's inauguration

(Continued from page 17)

Leininger said the National Guard made a huge contribution before and during the inauguration but what struck her most was how service members from all components pulled together as a team. "It was just one big group," she said.

Navy Cmdr. Craig Kujawa led part of that group as chief of the Parade Division of the Ceremonies Directorate of the Armed Forces Inaugural Committee.

He called the assembly of more than 200 horses and 300 busloads of marchers a logistical miracle. "Every service is represented," he said. "It's a wonderful experience."

Both the Army and the Air National Guard were represented in the parade, Kujawa said, and both pieces of the Guard contributed to the preparations for and execution of the event.

Army Reserve Sgt. 1st Class Greg Ramsdell supervised soldiers for escort duties for parade participants that included Guard members. "The contribution is enormous," Ramsdell said of Guard members, who have dual roles, both civilians and soldiers. "They give you an element of both the civilian sector and the military sector," he said.

"It's an awesome opportunity," said Marine Staff Sgt. Samuel Bass, among 100 active-duty Marines and 100 Marine Reservists who represented the Marine Corps. "We're privileged."

"I never thought I would live to see this day," Roker said. "It is the fulfillment of the American dream. Every parent has said to their child, 'You, too, can some day grow up to be president,' and we saw in this election that you had the possibility of an African-American being president, of a woman being president, or a woman being vice president. That pretty much says it all."

"This is about as important as it gets.

It reaffirms that this is the greatest democracy in history, that every four or eight years there is a peaceful, orderly, normal transition.

Many places in the world, this is an anomaly.

We are the model."

- Al Roker, The Today Show

Master Sgt. Jeff Lopez, a clarinetist with the U.S. Army Field Band that led the parade, was focused on the meaning of the day for the armed forces.

"It represents a military change of command," Lopez said. "As a military change of command ceremony would happen on a post, so that's what we're doing today — and we're changing our commander in chief."

Sgt. 1st Class Mark Stallworth of the Army Reserve said he would never forget marching.

"I can tell my son," Stallworth said.
"My grandchildren. Great-grands. This
is something that you can always say
that you were a part of, pass it down
the line. Call home to your mother and
father, 'Hey, Mom, look at me!'"

The night before the inauguration, Gen. McKinley stopped for a moment on his way to his Pentagon office to continue monitoring the Guard's contribution.

"Our Guardsmen will ... be visible, they will be out in the crowd, and they will be working alongside their civilian counterparts and will be there if needed to respond to any type of emergency," the chief promised. "I'm looking forward to a very safe, enjoyable and peaceful event."

By all accounts, that's exactly what the nation got on Tuesday, Jan 20.



Fueling the Troops

Making the long hours a little sweeter

By Army Staff Sgt. G.H. Cureton

715th Public Affairs

The D.C. National Guard Family Readiness Center is accustomed to providing support to Guardsmen. However during the three busy days leading up to and including the 56th Presidential Inauguration, the center served as a sweet oasis of calm.

Tables filled with candy, salty snacks and cookies were a hit for not only the Capital Guardians who stopped in during breaks, but also to thousands of Guardsmen from neighboring states called to support the mission.

Open 24 hours, the treats were provided free to all comers. "As the D.C. Guard started to plan how we would support our troops, we wanted

to make sure that MWR (Morale, Welfare and Recreation) was

included," Army Master Sgt. Shannon Goodwin, D.C. National Guard Family Readiness Center manager, said. "We talked to our leadership and soldiers for ideas. Our officers and senior enlisted really came through with donations to help us make it a reality."

"This is a great idea, especially the warm drinks," Army Spc. Cary Nelson, D.C. National Guard, said with an obvious reference to the below-freezing temperatures endured by the Guardsmen on Jan. 18 as they practiced for the inaugural parade and provided

Photo: Spc. Delicha Germany 715th Public Affairs

Retired Army Sgt. 1st Class Sylvia Lynch restocks the snack area of the D.C. National Guard Family Readiness Center.

> traffic control for Sunday's inaugural concert on the ground of the Lincoln Memorial.

Goodwin said one of the fringe benefits of the well-stocked snack room was it gave the troops an opportunity to network. "We rarely get an opportunity to work together with this many Guardsmen from around the country. It's nice to see our soldiers and airmen sitting down enjoying a snack and getting to know one another," she added. "This inaugural is truly a team effort."



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Available for Duty, Virginia NG

Virginia NG assists D.C. Guard at 56th Presidential Inauguration

By Maj. Cotton Puryear

National Guard Bureau

ore than 500 Virginia
National Guard soldiers
were on duty supporting the
56th Presidential Inauguration on
Jan. 20 by assisting federal, state and
local agencies with security, communications, traffic control and other
general support requirements.

"Virginia has been working on plans to assist with a major event in the National Capital Region for the last three years," said Maj. Gen. Robert B. Newman, The Adjutant General of Virginia, prior to the historic event. "This is going to be a complex multiagency, multi-jurisdictional operation, but I am confident that our planning



Virginia National Guard soldiers from Lynchburg-based 1st Battalion, 116th Brigade Combat Team, are sworn in as District of Columbia special police Jan. 18 at the National Guard Armory in Washington D.C. Approximately 275 soldiers from 1st **Battalion were in the National Capital** Region to assist in the mission of supporting federal and local authorities with security operations. About 10,000 National Guard personnel from 30 states and the Virgin Islands worked for Joint Task Force-D.C., providing communications, transportation, traffic control, medical and logistical support, as well as marching in the inaugural parade.

efforts with our partner state agencies as well as local authorities and the Department of Defense will pay off when we put our soldiers and airmen on the ground in support of the inauguration."

Approximately 275 soldiers of the Lynchburg-based 1st Battalion, 116th Brigade Combat Team gathered at Fort Pickett and then headed north to assist the D.C. National Guard with their mission supporting the Secret Service and National Park Police with security operations. Other Virginia Guard units were stationed in various locations across the state for support and contingency operations. Soldiers and airmen supporting the inauguration came from all over Virginia.

"It is an honor for these soldiers to be asked to do this," said Lt. Col. Scott Smith, commander of the 1st Battalion. "It is amazing what these soldiers have been through. Most of them have either recently returned from combat duty in Iraq or peacekeeping operations in Kosovo, but it says something about these soldiers that they continue to make themselves available for duty."

Soldiers from the 1st Battalion are no strangers to stepping up to answer the call of duty. Right after their drill weekend in February 2008 welcoming soldiers back from a year of duty in Kosovo, more than 100 soldiers went on duty to assist with the firefighting efforts in Southwest Virginia. They also geared up to provide support in anticipation of Tropical Storm Hanna in early September.

Smith also said the support soldiers receive from their employers is critical. "Their employers have been nothing short of amazing in their support so these soldiers can accomplish their missions for not just the commonwealth, but for their country as well," Smith said.

"It is amazing what these soldiers have been through. Most of them have either recently returned from combat duty in Iraq or peacekeeping operations in Kosovo, but it says something about these soldiers that they continue to make themselves available for duty."

- Lt. Col. Scott Smith

"This mission says a lot about the unique nature of the National Guard and the willingness of soldiers to choose this as profession to be ready to go at almost a moment's notice," Smith said. "At the end of the day, they feel a sense of worth that you can only get with serving in the Virginia National Guard.

According to the National Guard Bureau, more than 10,000 National Guard soldiers and airmen supported the 56th Presidential Inauguration, the Guard's largest contribution to an inauguration in its 372-year history.

Other contributing National Guard states included Delaware, Florida, Iowa, Kentucky, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Tennessee and West Virginia. In addition to communications, transport, traffic control and medical and logistical support, some Guard units played music and marched in the inaugural parade.

The National Guard Bureau participated in Armed Forces Inaugural Committee efforts while coordinating the support provided by the National Guard with federal and state civil authorities. A joint operations center was staffed around the clock through the inauguration.

The National Guard has a long history of supporting presidential inaugurations. Local militia units marched with George Washington as he proceeded to his first inauguration on April 30, 1789, according to Guard historians.

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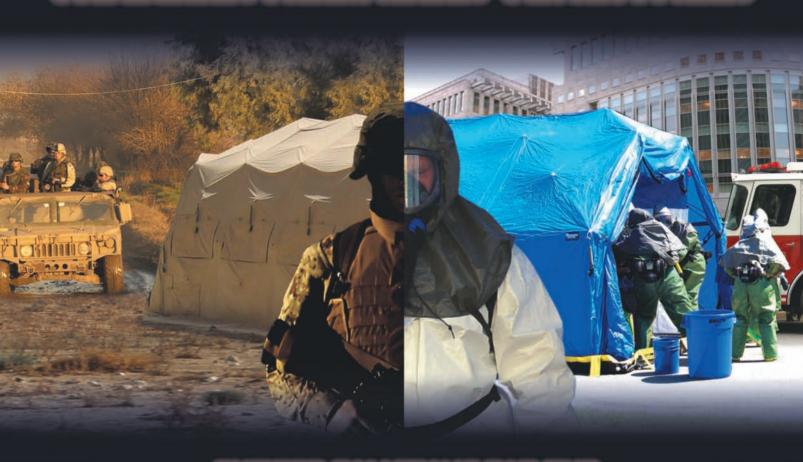
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